AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

What is claimed is:

1. (Canceled)

2. (Currently Amended) ~~Method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of:~~ A method for transporting Time Division Multiplex (TDM) time slots of a circuit switched connection from a first circuit switched node to a second circuit switched node through a packet switched network including a number of packet switched nodes, the circuit and packet switched nodes ~~are all having the characteristics of~~ based on a Multiprotocol Label Switch (MPLS), comprising the steps of:

in the first circuit switched node, encapsulating the time slots in a data frame adjusted to be transferred in the packet switched network[[,]];

stacking the data frame with (i) at least one inner MPLS label uniquely addressing a PCM system within the second circuit switched node ~~and/or~~ and (ii) at least one outer MPLS label identifying a fixed path of consecutive packet switched nodes within the packet switched network, said outer label includes addresses of all the packet switched nodes included in the fixed path in addition to an address of the second circuit switched node[[.]]; and

in the second circuit switched node, removing the outer MPLS label and transferring the time slots to the PCM system addressed by the inner label.

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim [[1]] 2, comprising the [[step]] steps of:

in the first node, including the address of the first packet switched node of the fixed path as the outer label[[,]]; and[[,]]

in each of the consecutive packet switched nodes, exchanging the content of the outer label with the address of the packet switched node following current packet switched node or, if current packet switched node is the last packet switched node of the fixed path, with the address of the second circuit switched node.

5.   (Currently Amended)   The method according to claim [[1]] 2, wherein that the first and the second circuit switched nodes are Label Edge Routers (LERs) and the packet switched nodes are Label Switched Routers (LSRs).

6.   (Currently Amended)   The method according to claim [[1]] 2, wherein that the circuit switched connection is a 64 kbit/s connection and the number of time slots in the data frame is 32 or 24.

7.   (Currently Amended)   The method according to claim [[1]] 2, wherein that the first circuit switched node and/or and the second circuit switched node are exchanges in a are/is (an) exchange(s) in (a) public telephone network(s).

8.   (Currently Amended)   The method according to claim [[1]] 2, wherein that the circuit switched connection is a real-time connection like a telephone call connection.